

English 300: MERLIN
Fall 1997: Syllabus
Sarah M. Anderson

McCosh 40

Monday, 1:30pm-4:20pm

Week I	Sept. 15	Orientation: an introduction to "Arthurian" Britain, selection from J. R. R. Tolkien (supplied); begin J. R. R. Tolkien's <u>The Hobbit</u>
Week II	Sept. 22	Pseudo-history: Geoffrey of Monmouth's <u>Prophecies*</u> , <u>History of the Kings of Britain</u> , and <u>Vita Merlini</u> (Goodrich, pp. 57-98) ☞ Paper 1 due (2 pp.)
Week III	Sept. 29	Geoffrey's antecedents, sources, and analogues: documentary evidence, hagiography*, Welsh poetry, and excerpts from Gildas*, Bede*, Nennius*, Wace*, Layamon*, William of Malmesbury*, and Gerald of Wales* (Goodrich, pp. 3-54)
Week IV	Oct. 6	Continental Romance: problems of chivalry and the Christian narrative in Robert de Boron and his continuators* (Goodrich, pp. 101-27); complete Tolkien's <u>Hobbit</u> and his "On Fairy-Stories"* for class discussion ☞ Exercise on "first paragraphs" due
Week V	Oct. 13	Excursus: art, artifact, and scholarly research (field trip to Firestone); begin Vinaver's <u>King Arthur and His Knights</u> ☞ Last date for Paper 2 (5 pp)
Week VI	Oct. 20	Return of a native: the English rhymed and prose romances <u>Of Arthour and of Merlin</u> , <u>Merlin</u> , and Henry Lovelich's <u>Merlin*</u> ; British folklore* (Goodrich, pp. 129-64); discuss Wace* and Layamon* ☞ Paper 3 due by Oct. 25 (5 pp.)
Week VII	Oct. 27	☺ Fall Recess
Week VIII	Nov. 3	Merlin synthesized: Sir Thomas Malory's <u>Le Morte Darthur*</u> and the "hoole" Tradition (Goodrich, pp. 164-78)

Week IX	Nov. 10	The role of the book: Malory, William Caxton*, and a Winchester manuscript*; complete Vinaver's <u>King Arthur and His Knights</u>
		☞ Paper 4 due (revise Paper 2 or Paper 3)
Week X	Nov. 17	Merlin's cultural capital: Edmund Spenser's <u>Faerie Queene</u> , Thomas Heywood's <u>Life of Merlin</u> , William Lilly's <u>England's Propheticall Merline*</u> , and Jonathan Swift's <u>A Famous Prediction of Merlin*</u> (Goodrich, pp. 181-217); begin Twain's <u>Connecticut Yankee</u>
Week XI	Nov. 24	Merlin revived: Romantic medievalism with Alfred, Lord Tennyson*, and his circle (Goodrich, pp. 221-46)
		☞ Paper 5 due (10 pp.)
Week XII	Dec. 1	High modern Merlin: Mark Twain, T. H. White, C. S. Lewis, and J. R. R. Tolkien (Goodrich, pp. 277-417); complete Mark Twain's <u>Connecticut Yankee</u>
Week XIII	Dec. 8	Mass modern Merlin: comics, films, and a New Age
		☞ Paper 6 due (revise Paper 5)

Required texts:

Goodrich, Peter (ed.). The Romance of Merlin : An Anthology. New York: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1990.

Tolkien, J. R. R. The Hobbit : Or There and Back Again. New York: Ballantine Books, 1982.

Twain, Mark. A Connecticut Yankee at King Arthur's Court. New York: Penguin Books, 1981.

Vinaver, Eugène (ed.). King Arthur and His Knights : Selected Tales by Sir Thomas Malory. New York: Oxford University Press, 1975.

All texts are available at Micawber's. Selections in the syllabus marked with an (*) are available in the course packet, which can be printed through this course's Website (under construction) or copied. A master course packet will also be available in Reserve, where reference works and selected criticism may also be consulted.

Papers: You must turn in at least one rough draft of each paper you write along with the final paper. If you compose at the computer, simply print a copy that represents a significant version of the paper you are writing.

Office: McCosh 31; phone 258-4064

Office hours: Monday, 10 a.m.-12 noon; Tuesday, 9 a.m.-12 noon.; and by appointment.